

## Independence Day Festival at Eagles Nest- A big deal to firefighters

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While the likes of Edwin McCain and Jackson Crossing are set to take the stage at Saturday's Independence Day Festival at Eagles Nest, the firefighters are the real stars.

Part of the proceeds from the event go to local fire departments- an important cause to host John Turchin.

Area firefighters are volunteers he says- this means they drop everything to answer a call. Turchin fears many take it for granted that they always come when we dial 911.

Last year, part of the \$30,000 earned went into the purchase of Jaws of Life for Banner Elk volunteer fire department. The first day the equipment arrived at Banner Elk, it was used to rescue a dog, according to Turchin.

Assistant Fire Chief of Banner Elk, Pete Romanoski said donations like Turchin's are vital to the department.

While county and state funds go to operations, extra is needed to help the departments grow, he said. Come support firefighters- and listen to some great music. Gates open at 11 a.m. For more information on the festivities, or to purchase tickets, call 828-898-8645.